1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	144312	37416	1793.29
7.	Himachal Pradesh	288668	124490	4112.97
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	182787	47358	219.01
9.	Karnataka	1353412	260746	12607.85
10.	Kerala	1350937	115517	3336.28
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7041073	2927813	125464.48
12.	Maharashtra	2817476	164124	647.41
13.	Manipur	71941	7543	951.77
14.	Meghalaya	112973	86729	2109.92
15.	Mizoram	79455	68549	2029.99
16.	Nagaland	27884	21836	289.8
17.	Orissa	3508908	564366	24234.74
18.	Punjab	87093	11113	545.3
19.	Rajasthan	2683013	1819476	70451.56
20.	Sikkim	20992	5967	284.98
21.	Tamil Nadu	1755491	755475	36866.43
22.	Tripura	462744	398882	9251.63
23.	Uttar Pradesh	6434969	2468934	45418.8
24.	West Bengal	7694424	3183808	18818.31
25.	Chhattisgarh	2764805	1281986	36412.33
26.	Jharkhand	2683628	882314	39193.55
27.	Uttaranchal	261550	95218	3197.42
	TOTAL:	**57004559**	**21134437**	**579744.0791**

Dismal State of Rural Infrastructure

980. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether over a decade after the introduction of economic reforms, the scenario on the rural infrastructure front continues to be dismal as there is no substantial decrease in the number of poor people despite a plethora of rural development schemes launched by Government;

(b) whether rural infrastructure report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research has pointed that 40 percent of the villages are still without a road link;

(c) what are the other main points in the report; and

(d) by what time Government is likely to accept and implement the suggestions made in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, creation of rural infrastructure and amenities in rural areas. To improve further rural infrastructure, a major plan for rebuilding of rural India, which has now been conceived as a business plan called 'Bharat Nirman' is being implemented over a period of four years 2005-2009. The six components of the Bharat Nirman are, village electrification, provisioning of safe sources of drinking water, village connectivity by telephone and all-weather roads, creation of additional irrigation capacity and construction of house for rural poor. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three of the six components of Bharat Nirman *i.e.,* rural roads, rural housing and rural drinking water Supply. Another ambitious schemes taken up from 2nd February, 2006 by the Government is National Rural Employment Guarantee, which envisages to provided 100 days guaranteed employment to each rural household each year, those who want to take up manual work.

On account of implementation of above programmes and other developmental schemes, there has been general improvements. As per the national Sample Organization's 61st round of the consumer expenditure data for 2004-2005, the poverty ratio for rural areas declined to 28.3% as against 37.3% in 1993-94. The findings of the concurrent evaluation of self employment programme namely Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)-2002, reveals that 15.09% members sampled swarozgaris of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 37.24% sampled individual swarojgaris crossed the poverty line.

The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has recently published a report regarding creation of infrastructure facilities in rural areas titled "INDIA Rural Infrastructure Report" 2007. The report broadly covers the sectors of telecommunications, power, roads and transport, water and sanitation. The report estimated an investment of Rs. 1,58,313 crore needed for full coverage at 2002-03 prices. Besides the sectoral recommendation, the Report recommended new approaches through promoting local initiatives, offering micro-finance to build demand, encouraging private providers, decentralizing regulations, decentralizing fiscal authority and targeting subsidies.

Income earmarked for determining poverty line

†981. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the income in rupees earmarked for determining poverty line at present;

(b) whether it is uniform in all the States or different income has been fixed in this regard, if it is different, the details of its limit, State-wise; and

(c) the basis for fixing the same, the weightage given to different factors and the details of these factors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. It does not take into consideration income for determining poverty line. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.30 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in the urban areas.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.